



## Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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Dear Traffic Safety Partners:

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Safety is pleased to provide you with a copy of the *2001 Wisconsin Alcohol Traffic Facts Book*. Please note that the title of this book reflects the year for which the most recent data was compiled, not the year of publication.

This book provides statewide traffic-related alcohol information. The emphasis on traffic crashes, arrests, convictions and driver safety plan data presents a variety of alcohol-related data that will serve as a resource for safety, health and social service professionals.

We want to thank the Wisconsin Departments of Health and Family Services, Public Instruction, Natural Resources, Revenue, the Office of Justice Assistance, the University of Wisconsin Law School Resource Center on Impaired Driving, the WisDOT Division of Motor Vehicles, and the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States for their contributions to the content of this book.

This document can be viewed online at [www.dot.wisconsin.gov](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov). To obtain additional copies of this book or for more information, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John H. Evans".

John H. Evans, Director  
Bureau of Transportation Safety

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## KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

- In 2001, 304 people were killed and 6,586 people were injured in 8,695 alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes in Wisconsin. Alcohol-related crashes accounted for 6.9% of all crashes in the state, 40% of all motor vehicle fatalities, and 11% of all motor vehicle injuries. Since 1991, alcohol-related fatalities have declined 9% (from 333), alcohol-related injuries have declined 26% (from 8,899), and alcohol-related crashes have declined 28% (from 12,034).
- On average, one person was killed or injured in an alcohol-related crash in Wisconsin every 76 minutes during 2001. In 1991, on average, one person was killed or injured in an alcohol-related crash in Wisconsin every 57 minutes.
- During 2001, 38,731 people were arrested for Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) in Wisconsin, including 649 persons who were under 18. This compares to 36,385 OWI arrests in 1990.
- Of the 8,702 drinking drivers involved in crashes in 2001, 1,234 (14%) were under age 21 and 7,447 were age 21 or older. Since 1991, the number of drinking drivers in crashes has declined 27% (from 6,865). In 1991, 795 (12%) of the 6,865 drinking drivers in crashes were under age 21.
- In 2001, 163 drivers killed in crashes had an alcohol concentration (AC) of 0.10% or higher; 17 were under age 21 and 146 were age 21 or older. These 163 drivers represent 36% of all drivers killed who were tested for alcohol concentration. The 17 drivers under age 21 represent 28% of all drivers under age 21 who were killed in crashes and tested for alcohol concentration. In 1991, 42% of all drivers killed and tested for alcohol concentration had an AC of 0.10% or higher.
- Of the 32,919 drivers convicted of OWI in Wisconsin in 2001, 3,130 (10%) were under age 21 at the time of violation and 29,061 (90%) were age 21 or older.
- Of the 37,718 OWI citations adjudicated in Wisconsin during 2001, almost 92% of the drivers were found guilty. This total included 5,082 cases where the driver refused the alcohol test; 94% of the people who refused the alcohol test were found guilty of OWI.
- The median time between OWI violation and conviction in 2001 was 64 days.
- The median alcohol concentration (AC) test result for 2001 OWI citations was 0.17%.
- In 2000, 5% of the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey respondents (age 18 and older) reported that they drove after drinking too much during the past month. In the 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 10.2% of 10th graders and 29.9% of 12th graders responded that they drove after drinking in the past 30 days.
- As of January 1, 2002, the WisDOT-DMV-Driver Record File showed that, since January 1, 1989:

252,158	drivers had 1 OWI conviction
34,149	drivers had 2 OWI convictions
19,021	drivers had 3 OWI convictions
6,312	drivers had 4 OWI convictions
2,040	drivers had 5 OWI convictions
725	drivers had 6 OWI convictions
257	drivers had 7 OWI convictions
88	drivers had 8 OWI convictions
35	drivers had 9 OWI convictions
17	drivers had 10 OWI convictions
7	drivers had 11 OWI convictions
1	driver had 12 OWI convictions
1	driver had 13 OWI convictions
- A “typical” OWI offender is a 38 year old male. Of the 252,158 drivers with one OWI conviction in the driver history profile, 79% were male and 45% were between the ages of 25 and 39. Of the 62,653 repeat offenders, 85% were male and 50% were between the ages of 25 and 39.